

MERCANTILE MONEY MUSEUM

Location: Podium Level
Mercantile Tower
Seventh & Washington
St. Louis, Missouri 63101

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday,
except legal holidays

Admission: Free

Group Tours: 425-2050

The Science of Numismatics

“Numismatics” is a derivation of the Greek word “nomisma” meaning customary currency. The term and interest in collecting old coins first attained popularity during the Italian Renaissance of the fourteenth century. Noblemen of the era established vast collections of ancient Greek and Roman coins. Not until the seventeenth century did numismatics attract the interest of scholars who began the classification of coins and currency and the reconstruction of events surrounding their minting or issues.

MERCANTILE MONEY MUSEUM

Featuring the
Eric P. Newman Collection



**MERCANTILE
BANK**

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ERIC P. NEWMAN Curator, Mercantile Money Museum

Eric P. Newman is recognized internationally as an authority on numismatics. His interest in the science extends beyond the collection of coin and currency to its historical and cultural significance. His extensive collection of coin, currency, memorabilia and resource material is the basis for the Mercantile Money Museum.

For his contributions to the science, Mr. Newman has received numerous accolades, including the prestigious Archer M. Huntington Award from the American Numismatic Society for "three decades of achievement" and the Farran Zerbe Award and twelve Heath Literary awards from the American Numismatic Association.

Mr. Newman's research in the science has led to the resolution of many numismatic disputes. His *Counterfeit Continental Currency Goes to War* revealed the first use of counterfeit currency as an economic weapon in war. His *Early Paper Money of America* is a classic. Other publications include *The Fantastic 1804 Dollar*, coauthored with Kenneth E. Bressett; *The Secret of the Good Samaritan Shilling and Coinage for Colonial Virginia*.

A benefactor of the American Numismatic Society, Mr. Newman also sits on that Society's Council and heads its Seventeenth to Twentieth Century Standing Committee. He has chaired the U.S. Assay Commission and the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission. He is a frequent lecturer at international numismatic forums and other organizations. By his formation of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society he is further able to assist other scholars in numismatic research projects.

However, Mr. Newman's numismatic interests remain an avocation. By profession, he is executive vice president and secretary of Edison Brothers Stores, Inc., a nationwide chain of retail stores based in St. Louis. A graduate of MIT and Washington University Law School, Mr. Newman is a native of St. Louis.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Mercantile Money Museum is a cooperative undertaking of Mercantile Trust Company N.A. and the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society. The museum has been established to portray the significance and use of money as a major element in the development and maintenance of people's standards of living as well as the contribution of money to the history, art, culture and economic welfare of people throughout the world. The museum features the Eric P. Newman Collection, an extensive accumulation of coin, currency and money-related memorabilia.

Due to the extent of Mr. Newman's collection of American and international coin and currency (retained under bank vault protection), displays in the museum will be changed from time to time. Applications or suggestions for new displays may be submitted in writing.

Current exhibits, enclosed in nearly 40 cases, include The Preparation of Money, Making Money the Wrong Way, Missouri's Own Money, Women in the Money, Black Imprint on U.S. Money, The American Indian Connection, Military Occupation Money, Teaching Money Use, Spanish American Origin of the U.S. Dollar, As Phony as a \$3.00 Bill, Rhapsody in Green, Money Changers and Counters and Coin Scales.

A special display holds the dies used to strike an original coin commemorating the 125th Anniversary of Mercantile, observed in 1980, and the opening of the museum. The museum also features two audio-visual mannequins: Benjamin Franklin and a counterfeiter. Mr. Franklin presents some comments about money and his many witticisms. The counterfeiter, dressed in prison garb, explains his predicament and the penalties for counterfeiting.

While the majority of the museum, devoted to the Newman Collection, is open to the public, a special section has been designated for the serious study of numismatics. That area, containing the Newman library, is available by appointment to students of the science.

The museum is open to the public from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays. Arrangements for group tours may be made during business hours by calling 425-2050.